



Renewable Fuels Association

Ex Parte No 670

August 31, 2007

Surface Transportation Board  
Attn: STB Ex Parte No 670  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

On behalf of the Renewable Fuels Association, it is my pleasure to nominate Ben Sweat for the newly created Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

RFA is the national trade association representing the U.S. ethanol industry. Ethanol has become an essential component of the U.S. motor fuel market. Currently, 124 ethanol biorefineries nationwide have the capacity to produce nearly 6.5 billion gallons annually. Additionally, 76 biorefineries are under construction and are expanding that will add more than 6.5 billion gallons of capacity when complete. The establishment of a RETAC is important and timely given the dramatic growth of the domestic ethanol industry, and the increasingly important role of continued development of rail infrastructure for our nation's biofuels industry.

With over 15 years of fuel and transportation experience, Mr. Sweat's dedication to the biofuels industry is undeniable. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of Logistics at the second largest ethanol marketing company in the U.S., POET Ethanol Products. POET currently markets over 1 billion fuel ethanol gallons per year from 24 operating facilities and functions as one of the largest unit train shipper of ethanol in the U.S.

Many ethanol plants have the capability to load unit trains with ethanol for shipment to ethanol terminals in key markets. Unit trains are quickly becoming the norm, not the exception. This growth required the rapid and continuing development on infrastructure in many areas around the country that had previously not used ethanol. Railroad companies are working with our industry to develop infrastructure to meet future demand for ethanol. We will continue to work together to put in place the necessary infrastructure to make sure that in any market we need to ship ethanol there is rail access at gasoline terminals, and that those terminals are able to take unit trains.

RFA not only appreciates the STB's focus on emerging issues relating to rail transportation of energy resources, including biofuels, but also has a direct interest in, and resolutely supports the RETAC. Mr. Sweat knows firsthand that agricultural products, particularly biofuels, have opportunities for expansion in new and growing markets, and would prove to be an excellent resource for RETAC. The RFA respectfully asks the STB to consider Ben Sweat as a candidate to RETAC.

Sincerely,

Bob Dinneen  
President and CEO